



June 30, 2016

## Game of Thrones



In terms of epic sagas of fantasy, it does not get any better than *Game of Thrones*. The HBO answer to *Lord of the Rings* is a phenomenon of intrigue, dysfunctional families, backstabbing and graphic violence. If you are offended by full nudity, graphic sexuality and violent imagery, stop reading here. Know that this is for adults. There are dragons and monsters and magic and battles upon battles for you to sink your teeth into.

At the heart of it all is the game for power, land, money, control and love. It is dark and bold and for loyal fans, it is the stuff that television dreams are made of. Twists and turns abound around the Lannisters who are quite adept at waging and winning wars, until one day—fate takes a turn or three and they are left to pick up the pieces like so many mangled corpses on the battlefield.

Against them is the family Stark. A name that suits them well as they are not a happy bunch with one brother fighting for his birthright and a scattered set of siblings who are all trying to find the way home, each season builds upon each other like so much mortar in a castle.



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*Game of Thrones* gives fantasy loving folks a chance to escape into another series of realms where life is brutal and harsh and where will power is more important than loyalty. If you are a fan, I need not explain. If you have never seen the show, I recommend it. But beware, it is very complex and you need a scorecard to keep up with all of the ins and outs. It is a true plot workout and that is what I love about it.

I actually decided to go back to the first season and watch it again because there is so much you can miss the first time around. But the characters, particularly Tyrion Lannister, played by Peter Dinklage, are mesmerizing to watch. There are also some of the foulest villains ever to grace the small flat screen.

There are even plenty of attractive people also to root for or against. I assure you that, given one episode, you might just be hooked. I give *Game of Thrones* five Iron thrones.

